CLAIMS:

1. A method of immunomodulatory therapy in a mammal said method comprising administering to said mammal an immunomodulating effective amount of one or more components of the cell wall of *Mycobacterium* or a related organism or analogous components from another biological source or chemical equivalents of said components.

2. A method according to claim 1 wherein the immunomodulatory therapy is for the treatment of an autoimmune disease.

3. A method according to claim 2 wherein the autoimmune disease is one or more of IDDM, thyroiditis, atrophic gastritis (type A), pernicious anaemia, Addison's disease, pemphigus vulgaris, pemphigoid, multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, systemic lupus erythematosus, discoid lupus erythematosus, haemolytic anaemia, sympathetic ophthalmia, uveitis, idiopathic thrombocytopenia, idiopathic leucopenia, primary biliary cirrhosis, autoimmune chronic active hepatitis, ulcerative colitis, Sjogren's syndrome, dermatomyositis, scleroderma and mixed connective tissue disease.

4. A method according to claim 3 wherein the autoimmune disease is IDDM.

5. A method according to claim 1 wherein the immunomodulatory therapy is for enhancing an anti-tumour immune response.

6. A method according to claim 5 wherein the immunomodulatory therapy is for enhancing an immune response against melanoma or bladder cancer.

7. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 6 wherein the cell wall component comprises mycolyl-arabinogalactan-peptidoglycan (MAPG) or a component thereof or chemical equivalent thereof with or without other associated cell wall components and submolecular components or their chemical equivalents.

8. A method according to claim 7 wherein MAPG is administered in combination with one or more of mycolic acids, peptidoglycan or arabinogalactan or chemical or functional equivalents thereof.

9. A method according to claim 7 wherein MAPG or its components are derived from *Mycobacterium bovis*.

10. A method according to claim 1 wherein the mammal is a human.

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11. A method for preventing, delaying onset of, curing, curing in association with islet and/or pancreas transplant replacement or otherwise ameliorating the effects of IDDM in a mammal said method comprising administering to said mammal an IDDM treating effective amount of one or more components of the cell wall of *Mycobacterium* or related organism or analogous components from another biological source or chemical equivalents of said components.

12. A method according to claim 11 wherein the mammal is a human.

13. A method according to claim 12 wherein the cell wall component is MAPG or a derivative or component thereof or their derivatives or chemical equivalents.

14. A method according to claim 13 wherein the MAPG or its derivatives or components is from *M. bovis*.

15. A composition of matter comprising MAPG or a derivative or a component thereof or its derivative or chemical equivalents thereof.

16. A composition according to claim 15 further comprising one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers and/or diluents.

17. A method for isolating components of MAPG for use in a therapeutic composition for preventing, delaying the onset of or otherwise ameliorating the effects of diabetes in a mammal

or for use in immunomodulatory therapy said method comprising preparing cell envelopes from a species of *Mycobacterium* or related organism or other suitable biological source, subjecting said cell envelopes to glycolipid removing means to remove soluble glycolipids, treating the product so obtained to break the mycolic acids linkage and isolating said mycolic acids, treating the remaining complex to cleave linkage at rhamnose residue connecting arabinogalactan to the peptidoglycan backbone and separating and isolating arabinogalactan and peptidoglycan.

18. A method according to claim 17 wherein the glycolipids are removed by repeated centrifugation in the presence of sodium dodecyl sulphate (SDS).

19. A method according to claim 17 wherein the mycolic acids linkage is cleaved by saponification, base-catalysed methano lysis or ammonolysis.

20. Use of a cell wall component of *Mycobacterium* in immunomodulatory therapy.

21. Use according to claim 20 wherein the immunomodulatory therapy is for the treatment of diabetes.

22. Use according to claim 20 wherein the immunomodulatory therapy is for the treatment of carcinoma.